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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,597	02/19/2004	Yoshinori Katayama	1448.1051	3379
21171	7590	04/06/2007	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			LEWIS, CHERYL RENEA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/06/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/780,597	KATAYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cheryl Lewis	2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 20-37 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 20-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the applicants' communication received on December 22, 2006.
2. Claims 20-37 are presented for examination. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-19 in the amendment received on December 22, 2006. The applicants have added new claims 20-37.
3. Applicants' arguments with respect to claim 20-37 have been considered but they are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 20-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dhillon et al. (Publication No.: US 2005/0182745 filed July 30, 2004, priority to provisional application No. 60/491,561, filed August 1, 2003, hereinafter Dhillon).
6. Regarding Claims 20, 26, and 32, Dhillon teaches a method and apparatus for sharing information over a network.

The method and associated system for sharing information over a network as taught or suggested by Dhillon includes:

extracting metadata of the persons from among electronic data that include information about the persons (¶ 0046, "...display is shown in FIG. 3. In FIG. 3, the potential contacts..."); linking the metadata extracted based on a co-occurring relationship (¶0064, "...relationship path between the matching contact and the user includes an "inner circle" contact, ¶0065, "...to determine whether there is a "friend" between the user and the matching contact...", ¶0066, 'For example, one color would identify "friends" another would identify contacts.', ¶0068-0070) of the information about the persons in the electronic data (¶0046 and 0048); storing the metadata linked as secondary metadata into a database (¶0022, 0024, 0026, 0045, 0056-0058); retrieving from the database, secondary metadata that satisfy a filter condition (¶0042-0044, figure 1, elements 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 25); and displaying the personal connection map (Figure 3, "Address Book", including elements "Name, Email, Company, Department, Strength", ¶0066-0071, "...color coded to indicate the type of relationship between the user and the identified contact..."; 'If the user desires to change the trust level (or relationship) of the contact...' based on the secondary metadata retrieved (¶0046, 0048 and 0066-0071).

7. Regarding Claims 21, 27, and 32, Dhillon teaches displaying includes a closed loop is formed by N nodes and N links in the personal connection map (figures 3 and 8-12, ¶0009-0016, 0062-0063, and 0067-0070, i.e., 'FIGS. 8a-d a high trust level relationship'), the personal connection map from which a first link representing a

weakest personal connection among (¶0009-0016, 0062-0063, and 0067-0070, 'The user may also be given the opportunity to downgrade the trust level from friend to contact...') the N links is eliminated so that the personal connection map has a tree structure and included the Nnodes and N-1 links other than the first link (figures 3 and 8-12, ¶0009-0016, 0062-0063, and 0067-0070, i.e., 'FIGS. 8a-d a high trust level relationship'), where N is an integer greater than one (figures 3 and 8-12, ¶0009-0016, 0062-0063, and 0067-0070, i.e., 'FIGS. 8a-d a high trust level relationship').

8. Regarding Claims 22, 28, and 33, Dhillon teaches the means which essentially comprises the same means as a time-line in the personal connection map (Figure 10, "Received", i.e., 06-18-2004 14:33:40).

9. Regarding Claims 23, 29, and 34, Dhillon teaches a suitable venue for assembly of persons represented by the nodes selected (figures 3 and 8-12, ¶0009-0016, 0062-0063, and 0067-0070, i.e., 'FIGS. 8a-d a high trust level relationship').

10. Regarding Claims 24, 30, and 35, Dhillon teaches displaying an effect on an environment caused by the persons assembling to the venue (figures 3 and 8-12, ¶0009-0016, i.e., 'FIGS. 8a-d a high trust level relationship').

11. Regarding Claims 25, 31, and 36, Dhillon teaches the environment (figures 3 and 8-12, ¶0009-0016, i.e., 'FIGS. 8a-d a high trust level relationship') is CO₂ emission.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

Art Unit: 2167

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

NAME OF CONTACT

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4113. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

(571) 273-4113 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Art Unit: 2167

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/ Technology Center (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Patent Examiner
March 31, 2007